Appl. No.: 10/820,209
Amdt. dated 03/23/2006
Reply to Office action of January 24, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

15.   (Currently amended) A method comprising:

inputting information into a handheld device from an indicium on an open shelving system, said information identifying an item stocked on said open shelving system;

inputting a current quantity of said item to the handheld device;

transferring the information and current quantity from the handheld device;

automatically comparing, in a computing device, the current quantity to a par level for said item; and

generating a restocking package in response to said automatic comparing when said current quantity is less than said par level.

16.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the indicium is a barcode and the inputting is performed by scanning the barcode.

17.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said transferring includes transporting the handheld device to a location where the information and quantity are downloaded.

18.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said transferring includes transmitting the information and quantity over a wireless link.

19.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said transferring includes inserting the handheld device into a docking station located proximate to said open shelving system.

20.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 additionally comprising selecting information identifying a second item not represented by an indicium on said open shelving

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system and inputting to the handheld device a current quantity of said second item to be stocked in the open shelving unit.

21.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the open shelving unit is one of a fixed unit or a carousel.

22.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the par level is set using one of a statically or dynamically determined level.

23.   (Currently amended) A method of restocking an open shelving system of the type having a plurality of bins, each of said bins having a unique indicium associated therewith, said method comprising:

inputting information into a handheld device from said indicium associated with each bin identifying an item stored therein;

inputting a current quantity of each of the items to the handheld device corresponding to the input information;

transferring the information and the current quantity of each of the items from the handheld device;

automatically comparing, in a computing device, the current quantity of each of the items to a par level for each item; and

generating a restocking package for each item, in response to said automatic comparing, when the current quantity of such item is less than its respective par level.

24.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the indicium is a barcode and the inputting is performed by scanning the barcode.

25.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein said transferring includes transporting the handheld device to a location where the information and the current quantity of each of the items are downloaded.

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26.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein said transferring includes transmitting the information and the current quantity of each of the items over a wireless link.

27.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein said transferring includes inserting the handheld device into a docking station located proximate to said open shelving system.

28.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 additionally comprising selecting information identifying an additional item not represented by an indicium on said open shelving system and inputting to the handheld device a current quantity of said additional item to be stocked in the open shelving unit.

29.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the open shelving unit is one of a fixed unit or a carousel.

30.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the par level of each of the items is set using one of a statically or dynamically determined level.